"All the News That's UNFIT to Print"

Joachim Joesten's

TRUTH LETTER

An Antidote to Official Mendacity and Newsfaking in the Press

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Editorial: To Fight the Powerful and the Rich, is the Privilege of the Great.

Why Gutenburg?

I have been asked by my friends in the U.S., time and again, why I picked a little place in West Germany, of all things, to publish a newsletter solely concerned with American affairs and, to at least 90% of its contents, with American assassinations.

On the face of it, that must indeed seem absurd. Yet, there is a good reason for it. Thought control and illicit censorship in the U.S. have reached proportions, and a degree of effectiveness, that make it virtually impossible to tell the whole truth about what has been happening in America since Nov. 22, 1963.

Sure, the appearances of complete freedom of the press and opinion abound everywhere. Books and periodicals of a radical tinge continue to come out, the so-called underground press prospers and even that most unlikely of fighting magazines, "Computers & Automation", has not yet been forced out of business. As a matter of fact, it has just concluded an exchange arrangement with TRUTH LETTER that amounts to an alliance against the forces of suppression and oppression.

Yet, these appearances are deceptive. Strong and sometimes irresistible pressure mostly of an economic nature is brought to bear on all those who dare tell the truth and in the case of individuals without financial or political backing, raw police methods are frequently applied. Trumped-up charges, false arrests, unlawfully obtained injunctions, illegally levied fines etc. are only the more lenient means of stifling dissent und do away with dissenters. The most effective method to attain that goal - discounting murder which generally hits witnesses, rather than critics - is a declaration of insanity.

During the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson, scores - if not hundreds - of people have been committed to mental hospitals for saying, or even hinting, that LBJ had instigated the assassination of President Kennedy in order to take his place. And once you have been placed in an institution like that, it is hard to get out again. In subsequent issues, TL proposes to discuss some of these cases that have recently come to light.

The official hallmark of insanity being today a person's ability to see through the pretenses and to detect the truth, I would be a safe bet for prompt commitment to a mental institution, were I to publish TRUTH LETTER in the U.S. For, none of the critics has been quite as outspoken as I have been from the start in labelling Lyndon B. Johnson a usurper, J. Edgar Hoover america's No. 1 criminal and the C.I.A. the chief architect of the Kennedy-King-Kennedy murder plots. My readers know that these are not "wild accusations," but well-documented charges, based on conclusive evidence that is concealed from the general public.

With a record like that, I wouldn't have much of a chance trying to publish TL in the United States. Nothing has changed in the Nixon era, except for the worse. The present Administration is as firmly committed to the perpetuation of

The Big Lie as the Usurper's regime was. To Nixon and his cohorts, too, telling the truth about Dallas, Memphis and Los Angeles is the mark of insanity and has to be dealt with accordingly.

Here, I can operate with comparatively little interference. True, some pieces of mail get lost, others like the letter from Jim Garrison (TL III/14) are unconscionably delayed by the secret censorship, but at least I need not fear that the police some day will close my shop and hustle me off to the nuthouse, as the FBI surely would do in the U.S. They could of course - with an assist from the CIA - apply indirect, and even more drastic measures, but that would be too spectacular for their purposes, so I rather believe they won't dare.

TRUTH LETTER, as published from here, not only is able to report on news that is systematically suppressed by the authorities in the US and their supine press, it also generates news. "Your informants are everywhere," one of my readers wrote me the other day in expressing his appreciation of the Col. Finck exposé (TL, III/17). That is almost literally true. And they keep sending me exclusive documents of historic significance like the Dr. Nichols brief, the "Panel Review" and, most recently, the Dr. Noguchi autopsy report and the transcript of the Grand Jury proceedings in the Sirhan case - all of them hitherto untapped fountainheads of startling truth. And so, with heartfelt thanks to these and other contributors, I'll go on as before. Gutenburg may yet earn itself a small place in history.

The "Panel Review" (ctd. from TL, III/16)

(Garrison:) "These photographs indicate that long before the fraudulent announcement describing Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin, the federal government had to know that this large caliber bullet was used in the assassination. Consequently, the federal government had to know that - inasmuch as it is impossible to fire a .45 caliber bullet from a 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano - there had to be a number of individuals firing at the President... These photographs explain why the federal government has so long concealed the autopsy photographs... and has kept them under lock and key in concrete vaults." The photographs also explain, he said, "Why not a single member of the Warren Commission dared to look at these autopsy photographs - because they knew that they would see wounds caused by gunshots from a number of directions," and "why the United States Justice Department under Ramsey Clark has worked so diligently to obstruct any legitimate investigation and to interfere with any trials connected with this case."

Subsequently, Garrison released a copy of a letter dated July 22, 1964, and written by Warren Commission attorney Norman Redlich to another commission attorney, Wesley J. Liebeler. Redlich wrote Liebeler, who was to question Deputy Sheriff E.R. Walthers, suggesting that he ask him "exactly what he saw on the day of the assassination with reference to the bullet which he claims splattered on the edge of the curb on Main Street." The letter said, "One time Walthers was quoted as having found a bullet. But he seems to have backed away from this position." (emphasis added)

He had, indeed. For, in an interview with the Dallas Morning News (Dec. 15, 1967), he flatly asserted: "I never saw any bullet." To which Garrison replied:

"Of course Deputy Sheriff Walthers denies that the bullet is a bullet. If he did not, he would not be a deputy sheriff any longer." Garrison added that Walthers by his denial had been "reduced to the embarrassement of having to pretend that the federal agent in the photograph has, in the first photograph, reached down for a piece of the President's head, and in the second photograph, is holding a piece of the President's head firmly clutched in his hand."

Walthers, it is obvious, knew more than was good for him, even though he did his best to cooperate with the powers-that-be. So, before long after his role had been publicly exposed by Garrison, Walthers was liquidated in the approved fashion. According to the always excellently informed Penn Jones Jr., "Walthers, who was the typical bad law officer, died of gunshot wounds while wrestling with an escaped convict. It was admitted at the trial of the convict for the shooting of Walthers that the fatal bullet could have come from the gun of Walthers' partner." (Midlothian Mirror, 8.13.70).

The combined evidence of these photographs and of Officer Hargis' grisly experience would be conclusive without further corroboration. Actually, there is powerful confirmation for it in the testimony of another authoritative source. In a handwritten report, made at 4:45 P.M. on the day of the assassination, Dr. Robert N. McClelland, who had performed the tracheotomy on the dying President, stated unambiguously, "the cause of death was due to massive head and brain injury from a gunshot wound of the left temple." The Warren Commission not only published this report (Exhibit 392), but even recorded the fact that Doctor McClelland, in his appearance before the commission, reaffirmed this conclusion (6H30 ff.)

Most of the critics originally were baffled by this statement, for there never was any evidence to the effect that the presidential limousine had been fired upon from the left side. What these observers overlooked was the simple fact that a powerful bullet, fired at close range from the area of the grassy knoll, would traverse Kennedy's head from right to left and emerge in the region of the left temple, causing by its exit the gunshot wound Dr. McClelland had observed and immediately recorded.

Precisely because this is what had happened, the military physicians at Bethesda Naval Hospital omitted - on orders (see TL, III/17) - to examine the left side of the brain and were scathingly denounced for it by the eminent pathologist Dr. Cyril H. Wecht in his "Critique of President Kennedy's Autopsy," published as Appendix D in Josiah Thompson's book "Six Seconds in Dallas:" ... the description (in the autopsy doctors' report) indicates that no examination of the brain's left side was performed. This is appalling. We cannot know what injuries were present in the left cerebral hemisphere if no examination was made. No competent forensic pathologist would examine only half a brain, particularly in a case where it had been injured by one or more bullets."

After this long, but necessary digression, back now to the text of the "Panel Review." As we have seen, the panelists, in a weasel-worded paragraph, conceded "minor loss of cortex" on the "inferior surface of the first left temporal convolution." They played down this important point because, after all, they were doing a job for the Government which was most anxious to conceal the fact that the President had been struck in the head by a bullet - or bullets - fired from the grassy knoll area and which carried brain tissue, along with a piece of the skull, into the grass on the left side of Elm Street, spattering Officer Hargis with blood in the process. That's why they ever so cautiously noted the fact, long since established by Dr. McClelland, that there were injuries in the left cerebral hemisphere and let it go at that without further exploring this crucial matter. The "Panel Review" then continues:

"The sylvian fissure on the right side has been opened revealing a rolled-up mass of arachnoid and blood clot which is dark brown to black in color. The mid-temporal region is depressed and its surface lacerated. The peduncles have been lacerated, probably incident to the removal of the contents from the cranium.

"Photographs 50, 51 and 52 show the superior aspect of the brain. The left cerebral hemisphere is covered by a generally intact arachnoid with evidence of subarachnoid hemorrhage especially over the parietal and frontal gyri and in the sulci. The right cerebral hemisphere is extensively lacerated. It is transected by a broad canal (emphasis added) running generally in a postero-anterior direction and to the right of the midline. Much of the roof of this canal is missing as are most of the overlying frontal and parietal gyri."

Now comes the big surprise, the telltale disclosure of a fact of capital importance which the military physicians deliberately suppressed both in their autopsy report and in their subsequent review of their own findings after they had for the first time viewed the photographs taken at the autopsy (this review, made on January 20, 1967, will also be published and commented in TL):

"In the central portion of its base there can be seen a gray brown rectangular structure measuring approximately 13 X 20 mm. Its identity cannot be established by The Panel."

This awkward admission shows the intense embarrassment of the four government-